

ON THE VALUE OF *ANCYLASTRUM*.

By CHARLES HEDLEY, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, N.S.W.,
Australia.

Read March 9th, 1894.

Ancylastrum was first defined by Bourguignat, Journ. de Conch. vol. iv. p. 63 (contained in a part dated 15th Feb. 1853), and on p. 170 he distinctly names his *Ancylus Cumingianus* as the type thereof. This remark he is careful to repeat in his description of that species, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1853, p. 91 (published July 25th, 1854).

Fischer, in his Manuel, p. 504, credits *Ancylastrum* to Moquin Tandon, in which he is copied by Tryon, Struct. and Syst. Conchology, iii. p. 107. No hint that Moquin Tandon originated the term is conveyed in Bourguignat's description, but the former writer claims the name as his own in the definition of *Ancylastrum* in his work on the Land and Fluvial Mollusca of France, ii. p. 483.

Another reference to the classification of this form is a note by Hanley, communicated by Legrand to the Proc. Roy. Soc. Tasmania, 1871 (1872), p. 27. He says: "One of your fresh-water species is quite a novelty; it is even of generic importance. It is almost a *Gundlachia*, but merits distinction. I propose for it the name *Legrandia*, in honour of the discoverer."

Clessin, in his monograph of the *Ancylinae* in the "Conchylien Cabinet," chooses to consider *Ancylus fluvialis* as the type of Bourguignat's *Ancylastrum*, for the actual type of which he proposes a new group. To complete this literary ruin he selects *Cumingia* as the name for his new group, a name preoccupied in the Mollusca by Sowerby, P.Z.S. 1833, p. 34.

To conclude, modern authors have persistently assigned to *Ancylastrum* a value it does not possess. Since the describer of the group clearly and repeatedly declared his type to be *Cumingianus* it is not legitimate for Fischer, Clessin, or Tryon to alter the type of *Ancylastrum* from *A. Cumingianus* to *A. fluvialis*. That Bourguignat also included *A. fluvialis* and other members of *Ancylus* proper in *Ancylastrum* is unfortunate, but it does not invalidate the genus. It is probable that Moquin Tandon privately suggested the word *Ancylastrum* to Bourguignat, but as a published name we have no choice but to cite Bourguignat as the author.

The shell characters of the monotypic *Ancylastrum* appear to me to differentiate it from *Ancylus*, to associate it rather with *Latia* and *Gundlachia*, and to entitle it to rank as an independent genus.